

Rec'd From
JUANA V. Narboni
8/19/77

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BO #41

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19th August, 1977

Buenos Aires.

To the Representatives of the
Subcommittee of Interamerican Affairs

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you as ex-member and ex-legal representative of the Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (Socialists Workers' Party), to express our preoccupation about the situation of a few of the members of our party who are now detained or who have been abducted.

The ex-Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores was a fully recognised political organization, which took part in the last elections, with candidates of their own. One of our candidates was Mr José Francisco Paez, who was our candidate to the vicepresidency. At the moment Mr Paez is in jail in Sierra Chica. His detention, which took place during the last months of the Peronist régime was the climax of a series of attacks against our organization, our offices, our members—17 of our members were murdered by the fascist gangs; one of them a member of our National Committee. On March 24th 1976, the military junta illegalized us instead of "suspending" our activities as in the case of other political parties. To show our disagreement against this measure we have started legal action against it. So far we have received no answer to our inquiries.

During our interview with Ms Derian we handed her a list of all the members of our party—students, workers, professional people—who have disappeared or who are in jail. Now we would like you to receive the same list as a piece of information.

Most of the cases of abductions and imprisonments took place after the military coup, in spite of the fact that we were a legally recognized organization, and in spite of the fact that we have always battled against the use of violent actions to solve the problems of our country. A proof of this is the fact that so far our members who have been detained have had no charges brought against them for having performed any guerrilla activities, on the contrary, the only charge that might be brought against them is their having socialist ideas. To prove this, Amnesty International has adopted all our ex-members who have been detained and has started an international campaign in their favour.

However we are most worried about those of our ex-members who have disappeared. Among them there are very important union leaders as Arturo Apaza, famous scientists as Federico Alvarez Rojas and his wife, or professional men as Eduardo Villabrille. The whole of the parliamentarians of the Partido Socialista Obrero Español has asked for an investigation of all these cases to the Argentinian Ambassador in Spain, who promised to look into this problem.

Now that we introduced you to the general picture of our situation we would like to present to you a special case. That of José Francisco Paez. As we said before, Paez was candidate to the vicepresidency of our country, and was detained after a meeting of all the representatives of the political parties of our country with the governor of Córdoba—during the Peronist régime. This meeting had been called to ask all political parties to make statements against the violence that was assailing the country. While he was detained he was accused of "illicit association." After several months of legal procedures, the judge considered that the proofs brought against him were insufficient and decreed his freedom. This took place on August 6th 1976. Now, a year after that decision, he is still in jail in Sierra Chica, "at the disposal of the Executive". Very famous people have asked our government to set him free: parliamentarians of different countries, artists like Ives Montand, writers like Sartre and his wife, organizations as Amnesty International.

If we are writing to you it is because we consider that you may considerably help us in our campaign for free our members and to make appear those who have disappeared. Through this information that we are giving you we want to respond to the campaign in favour of human rights started by

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S20000004)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Brodie () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

22F/8
5/53

President Carter.-

Enrique C. Bruen

ENRIQUE GERMAN BRUEN
Matheu 1193 - C.F.
ARGENTINA.-

Lista de desaparecidos adjunta. Cortada p. tarjeta -